

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please add Claims 19 to 26, as follows:

1. to 18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) A storing structure for storing an ink jet head, wherein said ink jet head comprises a nozzle for discharging liquid, a liquid storing portion for storing the liquid to be supplied to said nozzle, and a liquid introduction portion for introducing the liquid into said liquid storing portion from exterior, said liquid storing portion being divided into a first chamber communicated with said nozzle and a second chamber communicated with said liquid introduction portion by a filter, said liquid introduction portion being provided with an elastic member having a slit, said storing structure comprising:

a storing container having a container member and a lid member to contain said ink jet head; and

a cap for covering a nozzle face of said ink jet head in a non-contact state with respect to the nozzle face,

wherein ink not including a color material is contained in said nozzle of said ink jet head and air is present in an area other than said nozzle in the ink jet head.

20. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein a liquid absorbing member is disposed in said cap to maintain a space within the cap to a wetting condition.

21. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein in a state where an internal pressure of said ink jet head rises, said slit is opened to communicate an interior of the ink jet head and the exterior of the ink jet head.

22. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein a dome shaped elastic member is provided in said second chamber and said dome shaped elastic member also functions as a head internal pressure adjustment mechanism upon storing the ink jet head.

23. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 19, wherein said ink jet head is stored and sealingly housed in a bag made of material of a low gas permeability.

24. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 23, wherein said ink jet head is held within a tray in an inclined condition.

25. (New) A storing structure according to Claim 23, wherein the bag made of material of low gas permeability is an aluminum bag.

26. (New) An ink jet head stored in a storing structure,

wherein said ink jet head comprises:

a nozzle for discharging liquid, a liquid storing portion for storing the liquid to be supplied to said nozzle, and a liquid introduction portion for introducing the liquid into said liquid storing portion from exterior, said liquid storing portion being divided into a first chamber communicated with said nozzle and a second chamber communicated with said liquid introduction portion by a filter, said liquid introduction portion being provided with an elastic member having a slit; and

wherein storing structure comprises:

a storing container having a container member and a lid member to contain said ink jet head and a cap for covering a nozzle face of said ink jet head in a non-contact state with respect to the nozzle face; and

wherein ink not including a color material is contained in said nozzle of said ink jet head and air is present in an area other than said nozzle in the ink jet head.